

ABSTRACT

A method and system for converting messaging data into a relational table format in a database system, wherein the messaging data is within a messaging system is disclosed. The method and system of the present invention includes providing a table function that includes a plurality of table formatting specifications. The method and system of the present invention also includes invoking the table function to access the messaging data, and to convert the messaging data into specific data types according to the table formatting specifications, thereby transforming the messaging data into the relational table format.

Through aspects of the method and system of the present invention, the table function invokes at least one user-defined function within the database system. Preferably, the table function is also a user-defined function. The table function can be used within a single SQL statement to access and convert the message data, and to populate *directly* a relational table. The user is no longer required to perform conversion steps because the conversion is automatically performed by the table function.